

First Parish Church
Lancaster, Massachusetts

Worcester County

HABS No. MASS-542

HABS
MASS.
14 - LANC

1.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Massachusetts

APR 1972
100-1000

Historic American Buildings Survey
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

Addendum To:
FIRST PARISH CHURCH
(The Fifth Meeting House,
Lancaster Meeting House)
Town Green, Thayer Drive
Lancaster
Worcester County
Massachusetts

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MASSACHUSETTS	COUNTY WORCESTER	TOWN OR VICINITY LANCASTER
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) FIRST PARISH CHURCH		HABS NO. MA-542
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE The Fifth Meeting House, Lancaster Meeting House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Town Green, Thayer Drive		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1816 (National Register)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Charles Bulfinch (National Register)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The meeting house is considered the single greatest work of Boston architect, Charles Bulfinch, and is a masterpiece of the 19th-century of American architecture.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Adamesque-Federal style		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick; wood cupola		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 74' x 66' with porch, tower and portico		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE steeple-tapered spire porch, three brick arched openings with Doric pilasters between.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1881- two story, half-hexagonal shaped, brick Thayer Memorial Chapel added to north end of church- only alteration of the exterior 1900- interior additions		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Excellent condition; used as church		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE private ownership occupied; restricted to Public First Church of Christ, Unitarian		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places- inventory & nomination form, 12/30/70		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Massachusetts Historical Commission		DATE 10/19/87